

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08 /107 W
-----022432 161538Z /47

R 161415Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6030
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, ELAB SREF, WB, GW, TU, PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTANI REFUGEES (II)

REF: (A) 77 USBERLIN 3101, (B) 77 STOCKHOLM 5336

SUMMARY: NUMBER OF PAKISTANI REFUGEES ARRIVING IN WEST BERLIN
IN DECEMBER REMAINED VERY HIGH. BERLIN SENAT OFFICIALS REPORT,
HOWEVER, THAT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY FRG WITH PAKISTAN,
COUPLED WITH SENAT'S OWN PROGRAM OF RETURNING "ASYLUM SEEKERS"
TO PAKISTAN ABOARD CHARTERED AIRLINES, IS BEGINNING TO HAVE
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DESIRED EFFECT. FRG EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD REPORTS SUBSTANTIAL
DECREASE IN NUMBERS OF PAKISTANIS SEEKING TRANSIT VISAS THROUGH
COUNTRIES ENROUTE TO WEST BERLIN AND FRG. BERLIN SENAT
PLANS FURTHER CHARTER FLIGHTS TO RETURN PAKISTANI REFUGEES
TO THEIR HOMELAND. END SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING TO BERLIN SENAT OFFICIALS, 1,378 INDI-

VIDUALS SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN WEST BERLIN IN DECEMBER 1977. OF THESE, 998 WERE PAKISTANIS. THIS BROUGHT TO 5,684 THE NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS SEEKING ASYLUM IN WEST BERLIN IN 1977. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS SEEKING ASYLUM IN WEST BERLIN IN DECEMBER WAS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE NUMBER IN PREVIOUS MONTHS, BERLIN SENAT OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT DECEMBER ARRIVALS HAD BEEN "IN THE PIPELINE" AND THAT ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE FRG IN PAKISTAN AS WELL AS THEIR OWN PROGRAM OF RETURNING PAKISTANIS TO THEIR HOMELAND ARE ALREADY HAVING THE DESIRED EFFECT, AND THAT THE NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS SEEKING ASYLUM IN BERLIN CAN BE EXPECTED TO DROP SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE COMING MONTHS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PROCESSING PROCEDURES SET UP IN WEST BERLIN TO HANDLE THE HEAVY FLOW OF REFUGEES CONTINUES TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. MOST OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ACTUALLY FILE A WRITTEN PETITION FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM ARE SENT ON TO RELOCATION CENTERS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE FRG WITHIN THREE OR FOUR WEEKS AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN WEST BERLIN. CONSEQUENTLY, POTENTIALLY SERIOUS SOCIAL IMPACT ON WEST BERLIN WHICH HAD BEEN FEARED BY WEST BERLIN OFFICIALS AND BERLIN DAILY PRESS, HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED TO ANY GREAT EXTENT.

2. SENAT CHANCELLERY OFFICIALS ADVISED MISSOFF JANUARY 10, THAT FRG EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD HAD REPORTED THAT TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLANELOADS OF REFUGEES RETURNED TO PAKISTAN ABOARD WEST BERLIN CHARTER FLIGHTS, HAD BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR HOME VILLAGES. INITIAL REPORTS THAT RETURNED REFUGEES HAD BEEN IMPRISONED BY PAKISTANI OFFICIALS WERE MISLEADING ACCORDING TO SENAT OFFICIALS. RETURNING REFUGEES HAD, IN FACT, BEEN DETAINED BY PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUT ONLY LONG ENOUGH TO PERMIT THEIR INTERROGATION SO THAT INFORMATION COULD BE DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD PERMIT GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN TO IDENTIFY AND TAKE ACTION AGAINST PAKISTANI "BUSINESSMEN" WHO HAD BEEN ORGANIZING TRANSPORT OF PAKISTANIS TO WEST BERLIN AND FRG.

3. ACCORDING TO SENAT, FRG EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD REPORTS THAT RECRUITING EFFORTS IN COUNTRYSIDE HAS NOTICEABLY DIMINISHED AND NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS APPLYING FOR TRANSIT VISAS THROUGH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES ENROUTE TO FRG AND BERLIN HAS DROPPED BY OVER 50 PERCENT. SENAT ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT WORD IS SPREADING QUICKLY IN PAKISTAN THAT CONDITIONS IN WEST BERLIN AND FRG ARE NOT AS DESCRIBED BY RECRUITERS. TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE FACTORS ARE EXPECTED TO SUB-

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SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08 /107 W
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STANTIALY REDUCE, IF NOT ESSENTIALLY DRY UP, FLOW OF
PAKISTANIS TO BERLIN AND FRG IN NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE.

4. BERLIN SENAT HAD PLANNED THIRD CHARTER FLIGHT TO
PAKISTAN ON JANUARY 10. THE FLIGHT HAS BEEN DELAYED
UNTIL JANUARY 17, WE UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE PAKISTANI GOVERN-
MENT WOULD NOT GRANT LANDING RIGHTS TO CHARTERS BY PAN
AMERICAN OR WEST BERLIN-BASED U.S. CHARTER COMPANY,
AEROAMERICA. ACCORDING TO SENAT OFFICIALS, LANDING RIGHTS
WERE DENIED THROUGHOUT WEEK OF JANUARY 9 BECAUSE OF
SECURITY MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
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FOR VISIT BY UK PRIME MINISTER JAMES CALLAGHAN. (COMMENT:

THIS MAY BE TRUE, BUT WE ARE PUZZLED WHY PANAM AND AEROAMERICA WERE DENIED LANDING RIGHTS WHEN, WE UNDERSTAND, BOTH LUFTHANSA AND ITS SUBSIDIARY CHARTER AIRLINE "CONDOR", CONTINUED TO OBTAIN LANDING RIGHTS FOR THE SAME PERIOD.) AS IN THE TWO PREVIOUS INSTANCES, THE SENAT IS BEARING THE FULL COST OF RETURNING REFUGEES TO PAKISTAN.

5. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, IT WILL BE SOME TIME UNTIL WE KNOW FOR SURE WHETHER ACTIONS BY FRG AND BERLIN SENAT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN STEMMING FLOW OF PAKISTANI REFUGEES. FOR THE TIME BEING, HOWEVER, THE SUBJECT HAS CEASED TO BE MATTER OF MAJOR PUBLIC CONCERN, AND THE MANY ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIALLY RELATED PROBLEMS DESCRIBED REFTEL A ARE UNDER CONTROL.

6. FOR STOCKHOLM: WE ARE POUCHING COPY REFTEL A FOR YOUR INFORMATION. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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